

AGROSTIS HUMILIS Vasey (POACEAE).—USA, CA, Tuolumne Co., moist alpine meadow at outflow of Blue Canyon Lake, 3048 m, (NE¼ S9 T5N R20E), 22 Jul 1976, Neisess 67 (OBI, US). Mixed community, including *Carex nigricans* C. A. Mey., *Pedicularis groenlandica* Retz., *Potentilla breweri* Wats., *Dodecatheon alpinum* Greene, *Caltha howellii* Greene, *Aster alpigenus* Gray var. *andersonii* Peck, *Salix anglorum* Cham. var. *antiplasta* C. K. Schneid., *Castilleja culbertsonii* Greene, *Trisetum spicatum* Richt. var. *molle* Beal, *Juncus longistylis* Torr., and *Claytonia nevadensis* Wats. Collection verified by T. R. Soderstrom, US, Apr 1977.

Previous knowledge—Range: Cascade and Olympic Mts. of B.C., WA, OR; across NV and UT (Uinta Mts.); Rocky Mts. from MT south to NM (Herbaria consulted: US; UC and JEPS kindly checked by Alan R. Smith; published sources: Hitchcock, A. S., *Man. Grasses U.S.*, 1950; Hitchcock, C. L. et al., *Vasc. Pls. Pac. Northw.*, Cronquist et al., *Intermountain Flora*, 1977.). *Diagnostic characters*—Small tufted perennials; culms 3–18 cm tall; ligules 0.5–1.5 mm long, obtuse to truncate; blades 0.5–1.2 mm broad, mostly basal; panicles loosely contracted, 1.5–4 cm long; glumes subequal, 1.5–2.2 mm long, lanceolate, acute, purple; lemma 1.5–1.8 mm long, awnless; palea shorter, about $\frac{2}{3}$ its length; rachilla vestige lacking or very short. Blue Canyon population exhibits maximum dwarfing.

Significance—Previously unlisted in State and local floras. Full distribution in California unknown. Habitat and range suggest that it is relictual in sierran alpine tundra.—KURT R. NEISESS, Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, University of California, Riverside 92521.

ASPLENIUM SEPTENTRIONALE (L.) Hoffm. (ASPLENIACEAE).—USA, CA, Lassen Volcanic Natl. Park: Raker Peak, SW slope, 21 Jun 1976, D. Showers 3533 (SFSU); 1 km W of Lost Creek Camp, 2 Sep 1976, D. Showers 3748 (SFSU, CAS). Rare. Other localities include: Eagle Peak, Loomis Peak, and the North Domes. Scattered populations, in crevices of dacite volcanic rock, fully exposed, 1800–2700 m. Frequent associates are *Penstemon newberryi*, *Cryptogramma acrostichoides*, and *Polystichum scopulinum*. Verified by J. T. Howell, Apr. 1977 (D. Showers 3748).

Previous Knowledge—Known from SD and OK, W to OR and Baja Calif.; also WV; Eurasia. Known in CA from, Tulare Co., Columbine Lake, collected by J. T. Howell in 1942. Single locality in OR, Douglas Co., Copeland Creek on the N Umpqua River collected by F. Lang. (Herbaria consulted: CAS, DS, UC, SFSU; published sources: Munz, *Supplement to a California Flora*, 1968; Amer. Fern J. 59: 45–47. 1969). *Diagnostic characters*—small tufts consisting of grasslike fronds, the stipe longer than the blade, the latter divided into 2–3 linear segments.

Significance—A second locality in CA. The Lassen populations are between the two known localities for the southern Cascades-Sierra Nevada axis. They are 310 km SE of the Douglas Co, OR locality and 520 km N of the Tulare Co, CA locality.—DAVID W. SHOWERS, Department of Ecology and Systematic Biology, San Francisco State University, San Francisco 94132.

NOTES AND NEWS

ENDANGERED SPECIES IN CALIFORNIA: FEDERAL PROCEDURES AND STATUS REPORT.—There is considerable confusion about the various federal actions that have taken place relating to rare plants. This is exemplified by the statement in the April 1978 Madroño (25:107) that *Cordylanthus mollis* ssp. *mollis* has *Endangered* status under the Endangered Species Act. This is not yet so. It may be well to review the steps necessary to attain this status.

To be legally recognized as *Endangered* or *Threatened* under this act, a taxon must have been the subject of a proposed and a final rulemaking published in the Federal Register. *Critical habitats* are given legal standing in the same manner. These rulemakings are the responsibility of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. So far it has

taken the following steps concerning plants: A Notice of Review appeared 1 Jul 1975 and included essentially the national list compiled by the Smithsonian Institution (H.R. Doc. No. 51, 94th Congress, 1st Session, Report on endangered and threatened plant species of the United States, compiled for the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries by the Smithsonian Institution, 15 Dec 1974). This is a permissible, but not mandatory, step. On 16 Jun 1976 a rulemaking proposing 1783 taxa for *Endangered* status appeared. There has been no proposed rulemaking for *Threatened* status. Final rulemakings based on the 1976 action have appeared sporadically since then. The first such action for the nation listed four San Clemente Island taxa on 11 Aug 1977. It covered *Lotus scoparius* ssp. *traskiae*, *Malacothamnus clementinus*, *Delphinium kinkiense*, and *Castilleja grisea*. On 26 Apr 1978 a second group was listed; included, along with the notorious Furbish's lousewort, were five more California plants: *Oenothera deltoidea* var. *howellii* and *Erysimum capitatum* var. *angustatum*, both of the Antioch Dunes in Contra Costa County; *Oenothera avita* ssp. *eurekaensis* and *Swallenia alexandrae*, both of the Eureka Dunes in Inyo County; and *Dudleya traskiae* of Santa Barbara Island. On 28 Sep 1978 four more California plants joined the select list: *Arabis macdonaldiana* of Red Mountain, Mendocino County; *Orcuttia mucronata* of a single vernal pool in Solano County; *Pogogyne abramsii*, an inhabitant of rapidly disappearing vernal pools in San Diego County; and *Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *maritimus*, a coastal salt marsh taxon from Southern California. Only two *Critical Habitats* have been proposed for California taxa so far, for the two Antioch Dunes plants mentioned above. Both were the subject of a final rulemaking on 31 Aug 1978.

Of the 22 plant taxa now listed for the nation as *Endangered* or *Threatened*, thirteen are from California. This impressive proportion testifies not only to the large number of very rare taxa in the California flora but also to the hard work of the many amateurs and professionals that have assisted in the California Native Plant Society's Rare Plant Project, begun in 1968 at the instigation of G. Ledyard Stebbins, president from 1966 to 1971.—ALICE Q. HOWARD, Chairman, Rare Plant Committee, CNPS, University Herbarium, University of California, Berkeley 94720.

Note added in proof: Amendments to the Endangered Species Act passed on the final day of the 95th Congress in mid-October will change somewhat in the listing process outlined above.

A CORRECTION ON THE INDIGENEOUS DISTRIBUTION OF KNOBCONE PINE.—In a recent note (Madroño 25:106. 1978.) I reported a population of *Pinus attenuata* Lemm. along Beasore Road N of Bass Lake as a southward range extension. This population was thought to be indigenous based on the confirmation by the Timber Management Officer for the Sierra National Forest that neither knobcone pine nor any knobcone mixture had been planted in this area. However, a recent communication from Frank G. Hawksworth (Forest Pathologist, Rocky Mtn. For. Range Expt. Sta.) and an article in the *Fresno Bee* from 1971 describe planting by the Forest Service in the early 1960's of a knobcone-monterey pine hybrid (*P. × attenuradiata* Stockw. and Right.) along Beasore Road. Much of the present population is apparently offspring from these hybrids, many having lost most monterey pine characteristics.—JON E. KEELEY, Department of Biology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA 90041.

Ed. Note: Jim A. Bartel, Botanist with the Sierra National Forest, Fresno, has provided the following further information: *Pinus × attenuradiata* was planted as a timber tree in several harshly dry sites in the Sierra National Forest in the early 1960's. The hybrid pine was promoted for its rapid growth but has not been a good timber tree because it is readily bent or broken by snow.